

100. (New) The polypeptide of claim 99 wherein the epitope comprises amino acids 70 to 74 of SEQ ID NO:4.
101. (New) The polypeptide of claim 96 wherein the antibody is elicited by an epitope located within an unconserved region of the protein, the unconserved region consisting of amino acids 1 to 436 of SEQ ID NO:32.
102. (New) The polypeptide of claim 101 wherein the epitope comprises amino acids 70 to 74 of SEQ ID NO:32.
103. (New) The polypeptide of claim 96 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions, wherein high stringency conditions include a wash step of about 0.2x SSC at 50°C, to the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:31, including a conservatively substituted amino acid variant thereof.
104. (New) The polypeptide of claim 97 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions, wherein high stringency conditions include a wash step of about 0.2x SSC at 50°C, to the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:3, including a conservatively substituted amino acid variant thereof.
105. (New) The polypeptide of claim 99 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions, wherein high stringency conditions include a wash step of about 0.2x SSC at 50°C, to the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:5, including a conservatively substituted amino acid variant thereof.
106. (New) The polypeptide of claim 101 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions, wherein high stringency conditions include a wash step of about 0.2x SSC at 50°C, to the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:31, including a conservatively substituted amino acid variant thereof.

Please delete claims 1 to 82.

REMARKS

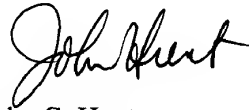
Claims 83 to 106 are currently pending in the application.

No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments.

Please charge any fee which may be required for the papers being filed with this letter to Account No. 02-2553.

Should any Patent Office Official want to telephone, the call should be made to John C. Hunt (Registration No. 36,424) at (416) 863-4344.

Yours very truly,



Date

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